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They lined up in the shadows of the inflatable Reshiram and Zekrom in San Diego, California: nearly 900 competitors hoping for their chance to get into the 2011 Pokémon TCG World Championships through the Last Chance Qualifier. They came from all over the world to battle. And in the end, only 48 of those players advanced to the Main Event, including a former World Champion and a former U.S. Nationals Champion.

When the battles for this year's titles were finally fought, the world was well represented. Two 11-year-olds, Gustavo Wada and Kohei Takenaka, represented Brazil and Japan in the Junior Division; Christopher Kan of Australia and Marco Facchin of Italy brought their respective countries to the table in the Senior Division finals; and David Cohen and Ross Cawthon.

both of the United States, battled in the Masters Division to decide which of them would be the World Champion.

The suspenseful battles saw two of the Finals matches tied up at one point, with the Masters Division battle going all the way to Sudden Death. With so many similar decks in motion during the tournament, every single decision made a difference in determining who would emerge as the Champions.

The new generation of Pokémon featured prominently at the event and in the winning decks, making this one of the most exciting World Championships ever. Key matches were fought in the spotlight onstage in the Sapphire Ballroom... The Finals battles were broadcast on overhead screens for all to see... A unique Nintendo Wi-Fi distribution of the Hoodlum Pokémon Scrafty was in

seven different languages... Luminaries from the world of Pokémon signed autographs for fans... And everyone got a sneak peek at the next Pokémon TCG expansion Black & White-Emerging Powers. But most exciting of all, three fierce competitors achieved their dream: to become the next Pokémon TCG World Champion, the greatest players on earth.



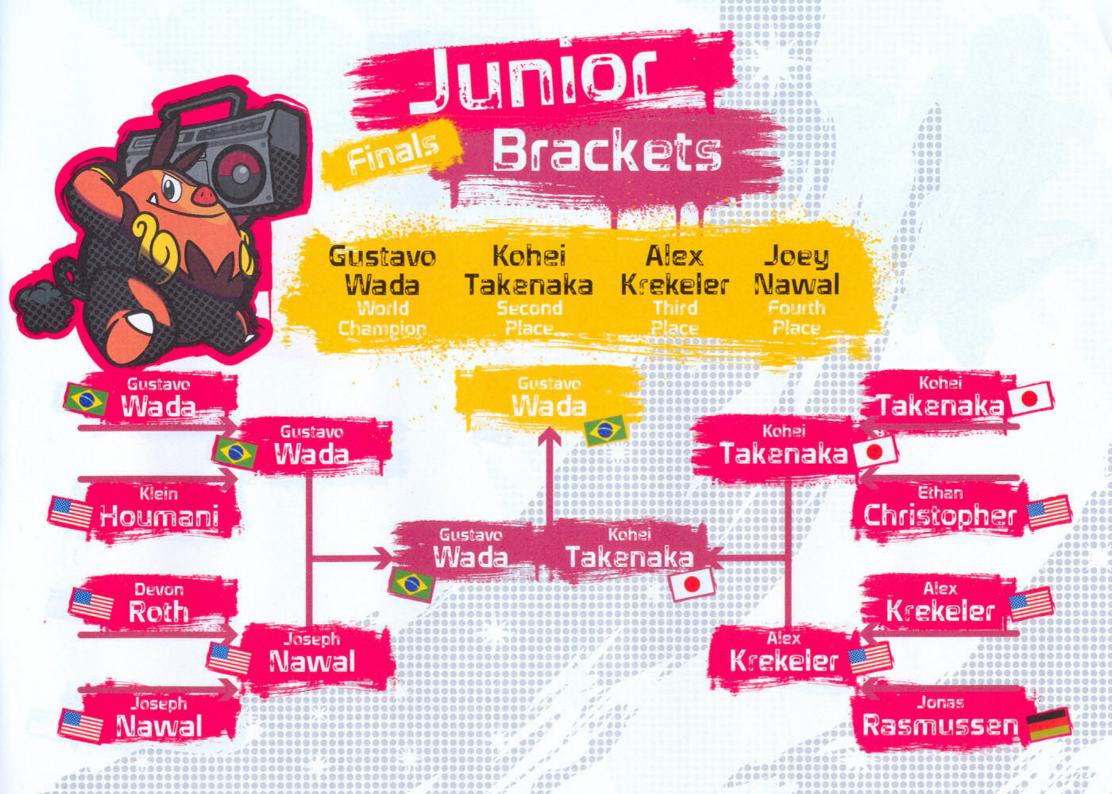
#### Participating Czech Republic Austria Belgium Argentina Australia Hong Kong Finland Italy Denmark France Germany Japan Malausia Malta Mexico Netherlands Portugal New Zealand Norway United Kingdom Singapore Spain Switzerland

#### **Emerging Champions**

With each victory, the best Pokémon TCG players in the world got closer to the title that brought them to San Diego for the Main Event. Each victory showed what amazing competitors they were.

On Sunday, August 14th, the 24 best Pokémon TCG players, eight in each age division, faced off against one another in the Sapphire Ballroom before an expectant and appreciative crowd. As the day progressed, eight became four; then four became two. And two finally became one: a Pokémon TCG World Champion.

In each of the three Division brackets are the two sets of pairings (four players on the far left and four on the far right) that led to the Championship match (in the middle of each bracket). Below each bracket is the runner-up pairing for the third-place standing.





Christopher Kan World Champion

Marco Facchin Second Place

Grafton Roll

Luke Burke Fourth Place

Christopher

Kan 🍍

Ryan Acgregor

Marce Facchin

Marco Facchin

Luke Burke

Luke **Burke** 

Brian Hathawau Christopher Kan

Marco Facchin Kan

Christopher

Lesage

Jacob

Christopher Kan

Kay Lüdecke

Grafton Roll

Grafton Roll



Dylan

Lefavour



Josh Wittenkeller





as the time to battle looms!

Greeting the Trainers!





Junior Division
World Champion

Age: 11

Country: Brazil

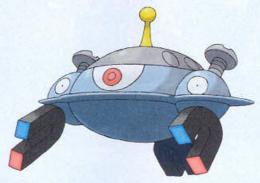
Deck: Megazone

Interesting Fact: Was particularly worried about facing Yanmega decks

Gustavo Wada hadn't been World Champion more than an hour when he was already thinking about next year's competition. "There's a card coming out that will change the current environment a lot," he says, referring to Pokemon Catcher, which he had just seen in the Prerelease tournaments. It's that sort of focus that took him all the way to the top. "This is an amazing tournament," he says. "In Brazil, we don't have such huge events. Everything—the environment, the decorations, the players. It's all amazing."

#### Megazone

Magnezone TM-96 x 3
Magneton TM-43 x 2
Magnemite TM-68 x 3
Yanmega TM-98 x 3
Yanma TM-84 x 4
Kingdra UL-85 x 2
Seadra UL-40 x 1
Horsea UL-49 x 2
Tyrogue HS-33 x 1
Cleffa CL-24 x 1
Pachirisu CL-18 x 1
Switch BLW-104 x 1



Copycat CL-77 x 2
Rare Candy UL-82 x 3
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4
Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 4
Professor Oak's New Theory HS-101 x 3
Junk Arm TM-87 x 3
Judge UL-78 x 3
Lightning Energy x 10



Kohei Takenaka felt he was representing Japan when he battled his way through the Last Chance Qualifier for his chance to play in the World Championships. To that end, where he had previously emphasized playing quickly in his 1,000 games of practice—the basis for the name of his deck—he took his time when he finally made it into the Main Event: "I played very calmly," he says, "and I felt like I was going to beat everyone."

### Kohei Takenaka

Junior Division Second Place

Age: 11

Country: Japan

Deck: Reshiphlosion x 1000

Interesting Fact: Went from Last Chance Qualifier to the Finals!

#### Reshiphlosion x 1000

Reshiram BLW-26 x 4

Typhlosion HS-110 x 4

Quilava HS-49 x 2

Cyndaquil HS-61 x 4

Cleffa HS-17 x 1

Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4

Professor Oak's New Theory CL-83 x 2

Sage's Training CL-85 x 4

Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 4

Rare Candy UL-82 x 4

Junk Arm TM-87 x 3

Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 3



PlusPower BLW-96 x 3
Pokégear 3.0 HS-96 x 3
Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3
Fire Energy x 9
Rescue Energy TM-90 x 2
Double Colorless Energy HS-103 x 1





Junior Division Third Place

Age: 10

Country: United States

Deck: zoo

Interesting Fact: Could play the Pokémon TCG before he could read!

Alex Krekeler comes from a family of gamers—in fact, he learned to play Pokémon in his father's store, and has practiced over the years with his two older brothers, Zak and Andrew. They helped him build the deck that took him all the way to the Semi-Finals. "I was worried about the tournament," he admits. "I was afraid of Reshiram-Typhlosion decks." In the end, however, he achieved a success even better than third place: "I'll always remember doing better at Worlds than either of my older brothers ever did!"

#### Zoo

Donphan HS-107 x 2
Phanpy HS-77 x 2
Yanmega TM-98 x 3
Yanma TM-84 x 3
Zoroark BLW-71 x 3
Zorua BLW-70 x 3
Reshiram BLW-26 x 1
Bouffalant BLW-91 x 4
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Professor Oak's
New Theory CL-83 x 4
Junk Arm TM-87 x 4



Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4
Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 4
Judge UL-78 x 3
PlusPower BLW-96 x 3
Copycat CL-77 x 2
Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 2
Potion BLW-100 x 1
Switch BLW-104 x 1
Fighting Energy x 6
Double Colorless Energy HS-103 x 4



Although he was a little nervous to face the competition, Joey Nawal need not have been. His deck, fine-tuned by his dad, was ready for battle. On his way to the Semi-Finals at the World Championships, one turn stood out as his most memorable: lots of drawing power, Rare Candy after Rare Candy after Rare Candy, and Pokémon like Magnezone and Kingdra Prime and two Yanmega Prime all coming into play, creating the perfect storm. "Quite a lot for one turn," he says modestly.

**Junior Division** Fourth Place

Age: 11

Country: United States

Deck: MegaJudge

Interesting Fact: His trip from Ohio to Worlds was his first plane ride!

#### MegaJudge

Yanmega TM-98 x 3

Yanma TM-84 x 3

Magnezone TM-96 x 3

Magneton TM-43 x 2

Magnemite TM-68 x 3

Kingdra UL-85 x 2

Seadra UL-40 x 1

Horsea UL-49 x 2

Cleffa HS-17 x 1

Tyrogue HS-33 x 1

Copycat CL-77 x 4

Flower Shop Lady UD-74 x 1



Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 3

Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 3

Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3

Switch BLW-104 x 1

Rare Candy UL-82 x 3

Lightning Energy x 8

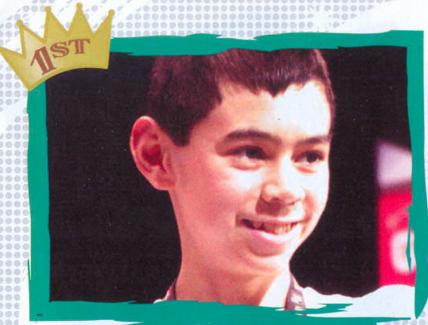
Grass Energy x 1

Rainbow Energy HS-104 x 2

Rescue Energy TM-90 x 2









Senior Division
World Champion

Age: 13

Country: Australia

Deck: Reshiphlosion

Interesting Fact: Went from 11th seed all the way to Champion!

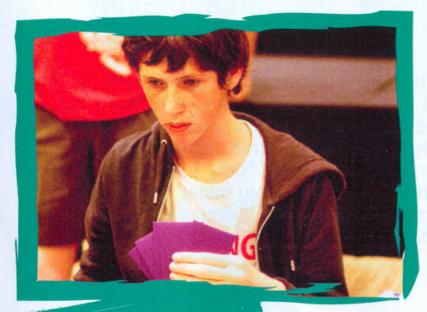
Christopher Kan was just as happy to test his winning deck against other decks of his own construction as he was to find other people to play against on his road to Worlds. His greatest worry along the way was what might happen if he encountered more-skilled players who were using the same deck he was—a distinct possibility. "So," he says, "I tried to psych my opponents into thinking my cards were bad and then wrecking them with a surprise." It was a strategy that served him well. His Reshiram-Typhlosion deck might have seen a lot of play at this year's Worlds, but no one played it as capably as World Champion Christopher Kan did.

Reshiphlosion

Reshiram BLW-26 x 4
Typhlosion HS-110 x 4
Quilava CL-49 x 1
Cyndaquil HS-61 x 4
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 4
Sage's Training UD-77 x 4
Engineer's Adjustments UL-75 x 2
Professor Oak's New Theory HS-101 x 2
Pokégear 3.0 HS-96 x 3
Rare Candy UL-82 x 4
Junk Arm TM-87 x 4
PlusPower BLW-96 x 3

Pokémon Communication
BLW-99 x 2
Revive BLW-102 x 1
Professor Elm's Training Method
HS-100 x 1
Energy Retrieval BLW-92 x 1
Fire Energy x 10

Rescue Energy TM-90 x 2



In one of his matches late in the tournament, Marco Facchin intended to use the attack Sonicboom on his Yanmega Prime, but the first syllable out of his mouth was "Lin...," as in "Linear Attack." He caught himself, but the judge ruled that he had declared a different attack than the one he'd wanted to use, forcing him to change his strategy on the spot. "I love to have fun," Marco concedes, "but sometimes tournaments are serious business!"



Senior Division Second Place

Age: 13

Country: Italy

Deck: Megazone

Interesting Fact: Flipped three tails on three coins for Jirachi in the Finals!

#### Megazone

Magnezone TM-96 x 3
Magneton TM-43 x 1
Magnemite TM-68 x 4
Yanmega TM-98 x 3
Yanma TM-84 x 4
Kingdra UL-85 x 2
Horsea UL-49 x 2
Cleffa CL-24 x 1
Manaphy UL-3 x 1
Jirachi UL-1 x 1
Pachirisu CL-18 x 1
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Judge UL-78 x 4



Junk Arm TM-87 x 4

Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3

Copycat CL-77 x 1

Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4

Switch BLW-104 x 1

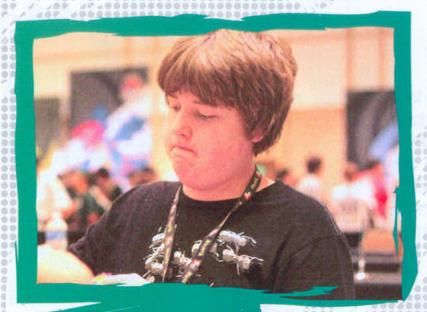
Rare Candy UL-82 x 4

Twins TM-89 x 1

Lightning Energy x 7

Psychic Energy x 2

Rescue Energy TM-90 x 2



# Grafton Roll

Senior Division Third Place

Age: 15

Country: United States

Deck: MegaJudge

Interesting Fact: Was worried about playing Ann-Marie Thompson, 2010's Third Place Senior!

For eight months, Grafton Roll worked on his deck with the help of his father, Jim, and his brother, Carson. As he continued to develop the deck, it began to appear more and more widely in the field. No matter—he knew he had a strong, strategic deck. "But I was worried about Reshiram decks," he says. "Once we used it at City Championships, though, we just made very minor adjustments." That focus paid off in memorable competitive plays like Knocking Out two Cyndaquil in one turn!

#### MegaJudge

Magnezone TM-96 x 3
Magneton TM-43 x 2
Magnemite TM-68 x 3
Yanmega TM-98 x 3
Yanma TM-84 x 4
Kingdra UL-85 x 2
Seadra UL-40 x 1

Horsea UL-49 x 2

Cleffa CL-24 x 1

Pachirisu CL-18 x 1

Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4

Judge UL-78 x 4

Junk Arm TM-87 x 2



Copycat CL-77 x 2

Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4

Rare Candy UL-82 x 4

Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3

Seeker TM-88 x 1

Switch BLW-104 x 2

Lightning Energy x 7

Rainbow Energy HS-104 x 2

Rescue Energy TM-90 x 3



Luke Burke's goal for this year's World Championships, his fourth, was very straightforward: "I just wanted to make the top cut, as this is my last year in the Senior Division." He did just that with exciting wins (as when he used Sage's Training to get a Pokémon Reversal, flipped heads, and switched out his opponent's Active Pokémon for a vulnerable Benched one to take his last Prize card) and with superior sportsmanship. "I always try to laugh with opponents," he says, "regardless of our language barriers."



Senior Division Fourth Place

Age: 14

Country: United Kingdom

Deck: Reshiphlosionstar

Interesting Fact: Often plays
Pokémon TCG in other countries

#### Reshiphlosionstar

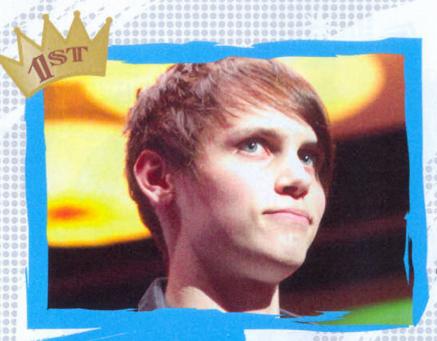
Reshiram BLW-26 x 4
Typhlosion HS-110 x 4
Quilava HS-49 x 2
Cyndaquil HS-61 x 4
Cleffa HS-17 x 1
Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 4
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Pokégear 3.0 HS-96 x 3
Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4
Rare Candy UL-82 x 4
Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3
Junk Arm TM-87 x 3
Sage's Training CL-85 x 4



Revive BLW-102 x 2 Lost Remover CL-80 x 1 PlusPower BLW-96 x 2 Fire Energy x 11







San Diego has been good to David Cohen. Back in 2009, he placed second in the Senior Division at the World Championships in San Diego. Now, in the same city, but two years and one age division later, he is the best Pokemon TCG player in the world. Yet he admits, "I did not have high hopes for myself." Many others did, however, especially the friends who cheered him on and who offered him deck-building advice as he tested his deck in the weeks before Worlds. "But everyone here is very good," he says. "Always have respect and beware new opponents at this level."

# David Cohen

Masters Division World Champion

Age: 16

Country: United States

Deck: Twinboar

Interesting Fact: Used Rayquaza & Deoxys LEGEND for impressive wins multiple times!

#### Twinboar

Emboar BLW-20 x 2
Pignite BLW-18 x 1
Tepig BLW-15 x 3
Reshiram BLW-26 x 2
Magnezone TM-96 x 3
Magneton TM-43 x 1
Magnemite TM-68 x 3
Rayquaza & Deoxys
LEGEND UD-89 x 1
Rayquaza & Deoxys
LEGEND UD-90 x 1
Cleffa HS-17 x 2
Rare Candy UL-82 x 4

Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4
Energy Retrieval BLW-92 x 2
Switch BLW-104 x 2
Junk Arm TM-87 x 3
Pokémon Collector
HS-97 x 4
Twins TM-89 x 3
Professor Oak's
New Theory CL-83 x 3
Fisherman HS-92 x 1
Fire Energy x 9
Lightning Energy x 4
Rescue Energy TM-90 x 2





### Ross Cawthon

Masters Division Second Place

Age: 22

Country: United States

Deck: The Truth

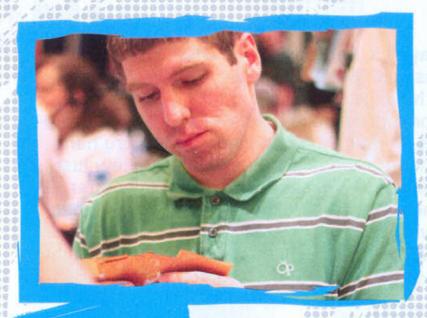
Interesting Fact: Given his unusual deck, he expected to go all the way...or only 2–5!

Until Ross Cawthon played it, Reuniclus was virtually unknown at the World Championships. "Many, many people were confused by what my deck did," he says of his unique deck that featured Vileplume and, added only three days before Worlds, the Multiplying Pokémon Reuniclus. "It made my opponents think very hard about what to do against me," he notes. Ross himself knew just what to do, however. In various games, he used the Supporter card Twins to set up those two key Pokémon, "which was when I usually knew I could win." One day after his birthday, Ross's deck and play style earned him this year's appearance in the spotlight after his 2005 second-place finish in the Masters Division.

#### The Truth

Vileplume UD-24 x 2
Gloom UD-27 x 2
Oddish UD-60 x 3
Reuniclus BLW-57 x 2
Duosion BLW-56 x 2
Solosis BLW-55 x 3
Donphan HS-107 x 2
Phanpy HS-77 x 2
Blissey HS-106 x 1
Chansey HS-58 x 1
Zekrom BLW-47 x 2
Suicune & Entei LEGEND UL-94 x 1
Pichu HS-28 x 2

Cleffa CL-24 x 1
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 3
Twins TM-89 x 4
Sage's Training CL-85 x 4
Professor Oak's New Theory CL-83 x 1
Copycat CL-77 x 1
Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 3
Rare Candy UL-82 x 3
Seeker TM-88 x 2
Tropical Beach PR-BW28 x 1
Fire Energy x 1
Fighting Energy x 2
Rainbow Energy HS-104 x 4
Double Colorless Energy HS-103 x 4



Using the deck that he played at U.S. Nationals (with some fine-tuning), Tom Dolezal came on strong with a very aggressive strategy right from the beginning. It paid off—his draws were strong, the coin flips in his favor. And in one noteworthy game, he used two Junk Arms to retrieve PlusPowers from his discard pile, sending him into the top 8 and ultimately earning him an invite to Worlds 2012 in Hawaii. "I was never worried," he says of his matches, "just a little nervous."

## Tom Dolezal

Masters Div<mark>isi</mark>on Third Place

Age: 23

Country: United States

Deck: Bolt Burner

Interesting Fact: Has played the Pokémon TCG since it was first released in the U.S.

#### **Bolt Burner**

Typhlosion HS-110 x 4
Quilava HS-49 x 2
Cyndaquil HS-61 x 4
Reshiram BLW-26 x 3
Ninetales HS-7 x 2
Vulpix UL-68 x 2
Cleffa CL-24 x 1
Rare Candy UL-82 x 3

Sage's Training CL-85  $\times$  1 Pokémon Communication BLW-99  $\times$  4 Pokémon Reversal HS-99  $\times$  3

PlusPower BLW-96 x 3
Junk Arm TM-87 x 4



Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 4
Twins TM-89 x 1
Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4
Energy Retrieval BLW-92 x 1
Revive BLW-102 x 1
Fire Energy x 13



### Josué de Palomino



Masters Divisi<mark>on</mark> Fourth Place

Age: 28

Country: Mexico

Deck: Reshi-Clamp

Interesting Fact: Nearly everyone in his family—including his three-year-old nephews—plays Pokemon!

It all began with a theme deck back in 2004, and now Josué Palomino is one of the best Pokémon TCG players on the planet. "I just tried to make a strong deck," he says, "with something to help me with the mirror matches. When my opponents see Fire, they're still in for a surprise." Perhaps more surprising: Josué is, in fact, a doctor. "My parents make fun of me because I'm 28 and still playing Pokémon," he says with a smile. "But now, even they are interested in the game!"

#### Reshi-Clamp

Typhlosion HS-110 x 3

Quilava HS-49 x 1

Cyndaquil HS-61 x 3

Reshiram BLW-26 x 4

Ninetales HS-7 x 2

Vulpix UL-68 x 2

Samurott BLW-32 x 1

Oshawott PR-BW08 x 1

Engineer's Adjustments UL-75 x 1

Professor Juniper BLW-101 x 2

Professor Oak's New Theory CL-83 x 4

Pokémon Collector HS-97 x 4

Rare Candy UL-82 x 4

Pokémon Communication BLW-99 x 4



PlusPower BLW-96 x 3
Pokémon Reversal HS-99 x 3
Junk Arm TM-87 x 3
Revive BLW-102 x 1
Energy Retrieval BLW-92 x 1
Fire Energy x 12
Rescue Energy TM-90 x 1





### World Championships Credits



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Worlds Staff: Kellyn Ballard, Eric Bessette, Dan Brandt,
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#### Pokémon TCG Credits

Original Japanese Game

Producer: Tsunekazu Ishihara

Original Game Design: Tsunekazu Ishihara,

Kouichi Ooyama & Takumi Akabane

Game Development: Creatures Inc.

Art Direction: Creatures Inc.

Graphic Design: Milky Isobe

Special Thanks To: Satoshi Tajiri, Ken Sugimori,

GAME FREAK inc.

English-Language Version The Pokémon Company International

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Director of Production: Richard Simpson

Director of Product Development: Yasuhiro Usui



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Art Direction: Eric Medalle

Graphic Design: Heather Luke

Card Typesetting: Ginny Baldwin

Packaging Illustration: Hironobu Yoshida

2011 Pokémon TCG World

Championships Logo: Eric Medalle

Photographs: Eric Medalle

Special Thanks To: Tsunekazu Ishihara, Junichi Masuda, Shigeki Morimoto, Hironobu Yoshida, Creatures Inc. Staff, The Pokémon Company International Staff, The Pokémon Company Staff, Nintendo of America Inc., Sitelines Productions, Inc., Hilton San Diego Bayfront Staff, Barokas PR, Mktg., Bender Helper PR, BFG Communications, Innovative Merchandising, Event Services, and all of the volunteers who gave their time to help us make this a successful event!





### Aloha and Welcome to the Big Event!

2012 World Championships in Kona, Hawaii!

Hilton Waikoloa Village on the Big Island

-August 10th - August 12th

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- Earn an invite as a top player with your Championship Points
- Qualify at the Last Chance Qualifier

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